

HONORING MR. AND MRS. DICK RIDINGER, COMMENDABLE ARMY VETERANS AND ADMIRER WOODBURY, NJ COMMUNITY CITIZENS

### HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 28, 2009*

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Dick and Mrs. Tommie Ridinger, residents of Woodbury, NJ for the past five decades. Dick and Tommie are 86 and 89 years old respectively, and have been married for the past 61 years. They met each other in Southern France while serving in the United States military during World War II.

Mr. Ridinger was a second lieutenant and Mrs. Ridinger was a nurse on the front lines in Marseilles, France. Mr. Ridinger is a short man, and when he was young he was self-conscious about his height. During combat in France, an enemy soldier fired a bullet at him. It skimmed off the top of his helmet, just barely missing his forehead. Never again has Mr. Ridinger complained about his height.

At another point, Nazis attacked a house while Mr. Ridinger's platoon was inside. While seeking shelter inside a closet, he found a French book. The book contained a poem titled, in English, "I Know Something Good About You." From that day forth, he embraced the teachings of the book and modeled his life philosophy after it.

In Marseilles, France, Mrs. Ridinger aided wounded soldiers on the front lines back to health. When the war ended, Tommie returned home to New Jersey with Dick. Tommie was a nurse at Redbank and Oakview elementary schools for over 20 years.

After the war, Mr. Ridinger served as a teacher, vice principal and a high school football coach at Paulsboro and Collingswood High Schools. His success led to his induction into the High School Coaches Hall of Fame in Canton, OH.

Madam Speaker, Mr. and Mrs. Ridinger have served their country in extraordinary ways. Assisting our country both in World War II and in their community for decades, they deserve tremendous recognition for their service. I congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Ridinger and wish them best of luck.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 28, 2009*

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, July 27, 2009.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 647 (On the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.Res. 593, as Amended), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 648 (On the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1376), "yes" on rollcall vote No. 649 (On the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1121).

HONORING MR. HAROLD MIKELL

### HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 28, 2009*

Mr. BOYD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a long-time employee, a trusted advisor, and a good friend of mine, Mr. Harold Mikell. Over the course of his career, which has spanned six decades, Harold has tirelessly worked for the people of Florida—both at the Florida Division of Forestry and as my Agriculture and Natural Resource liaison in North Florida.

Following his service in the United States Navy during World War II, Harold joined the Florida Division of Forestry as an Apprentice Forester. Over his 41 years with the Division, Harold rose through the ranks and distinguished himself as an expert in Fire Control.

Harold retired as Director of the Division in 1991, but his retirement proved to be short lived. In 1993, Harold accepted a position with my predecessor, Congressman Pete Peterson, to serve as his Agriculture liaison in the North Florida community, a role that Harold continued when I was elected to Congress in 1996.

The people of Florida truly owe Harold Mikell a debt of gratitude for his tireless commitment to our great state, and I look forward to his continued friendship, expertise, and counsel.

### RECOGNIZING WILLIAM JP BANKS

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 28, 2009*

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Chicago Alderman William JP Banks. On August 31, 2009, Alderman William JP Banks will retire from his career in public service after 26 years.

Born in the Galewood-Montclare community, Alderman Banks graduated from DePaul University and the DePaul University College of Law, never straying far from his Chicago roots and the city he went on to serve for so long. He and his wife, Shirley, have lived in and have raised their two children, Lisa and Joseph, in this same community.

In 1983, Mr. Banks won a seat in the City Council and has since become the highest ranking Italian-American in the Council's history. Throughout his illustrious career in public service, Alderman Banks has stood out as the Chairman of the City Council's Committee on Zoning, where he created an incentive program that has generated more than \$12 million for affordable housing developments in neighborhoods throughout the city. Additionally, he has authored and co-sponsored hundreds of legislative initiatives benefitting the people of Chicago that promote responsible government, support our troops and improve law enforcement.

Mr. Banks' role in the community did not stop in his office. It would be impossible to list all of Mr. Banks' involvements with community organizations, but a select few show his wide-reaching involvement with all members of his community. For example, he is an active

member of the Galewood-Montclare Community Organization, the North Austin Business Association, the Polish National Alliance, and the Fraternal Order of Police, and is a Board Member of the Chicago Shriner's Hospital.

One can judge a public servant's work by his community support, and looking at Alderman Banks' accolades, one can see how invaluable he has been to his constituents. He has received more than 600 awards from Youth Sports Activities and Educational programs throughout the city, a Friends of Downtown award, and numerous Person of the Year awards from organizations throughout Chicago.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate and thank William Banks for his lengthy and influential career and his many outstanding contributions to the city of Chicago. I wish him the best of luck and continued happiness in his retirement and all his future endeavors.

### EARMARK DECLARATION

### HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 28, 2009*

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, consistent with the House Republican Leadership's policy on earmarks, to the best of my knowledge the requests I have detailed below are (1) not directed to an entity or program that will be named after a sitting Member of Congress; and (2) not intended to be used by an entity to secure funds for other entities unless the use of funding is consistent with the specified purpose of the earmark. As required by earmark standards adopted by the House Republican Conference, I submit the following information on projects I requested and that were included in the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2010 (H.R. 3326).

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Army

Project Name: Brain Safety Net

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: University of Oregon, 103 Johnson Hall, Eugene, OR 97403

Project Location: Eugene, Oregon

Description of Project: H.R. 3326 appropriates \$3,000,000 for the Brain Safety Net project. According to the requesting entity, the appropriated funds for this project will be used to help develop and optimize evidence-based treatments of soldiers and civilians suffering from amputations, traumatic brain injuries (TBI) and neurological disorders such as epilepsy. According to the requester, this will be a valuable use of taxpayer funds because it has the potential to improve the lives of many Oregonians including veterans injured during service in Iraq and Afghanistan. An individual's ability to effectively use a prosthetic device or manage the consequences of a traumatic brain injury means a higher quality of life and better opportunities for employment.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Army

Project Name: ONAMI Miniaturized Tactical Energy Systems Development

Legal Name and Address of Requesting Entity: Oregon State University/University of Oregon/Portland State University/Oregon Nanosciences and Microtechnologies Institute, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331